SMUG BYTES

PRICE .75

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*        SMUG   BYTES             *
*      Volume  8,  Number 10      *
*        October   1991           *
*                                 *
* Subscriptions = $10.00 per year *
*  or free with swap.   Send to:  *
*                                 *
* SINCLAIR MILWAUKEE USERS GROUP  *
* P.O. Box 101, Butler WI 53007   *
*                                 *
*---------------------------------*
*                                 *
* THIS MONTH:                     *
*                                 *
*     -                           *
*                                 *
*     - Meeting Notes             *
*                                 *
*     - Classic Computer Fair 91  *
*                                 *
*     - Presidents Program        *
*                                 *
*     - And Other Great Things    *
*                                 *
*   If any articles are copied    *
*   please credit SMUG BYTES      *
*   and the author.               *
*---------------------------------*
*  NEXT MEETING DATE: 11/06/91    *
*        SEE YOU THERE            *
*---------------------------------*
*  Send all contributions by the  *
*  3rd Wednesday of the month to: *
*                                 *
*   Bill Heberlein                *
*   Editor                        *
*   SMUG BYTES                    *
*   5052 N. 91st Street           *
*   Milwaukee WI 53225-4129       *
*                                 *
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*                                 *
*    1991  OFFICERS               *
*     & WORKING                   *
*      MEMBERS                    *
*                                 *
*                                 *
*     All Area Codes Are 414      *
*President - Bill Heberlein       *
*      - 527 2191                 *
*V. Pres.  - Neal Schultz         *
*      - 353 4522                 *
*Secretary - Bud Dankert          *
*      - 251 4464                 *
*Treasurer - R. Cultice           *
*      - 542 3591                 *
*Education - R. Cultice           *
*      - 542 3591                 *
*                                 *
* - Librarians                    *
*Tape/Disk -E. Pawlowski          *
*   1 - 338 0260                  *
*Book      - D. Nickel            *
*   1 - 284 9691                  *
*                                 *
* - Sub Group Leaders             *
*"C"       - R. Cultice           *
*Meeting - Suspended              *
*      - 542 3591                 *
*Games     - N. Schultz           *
*Meeting 3rd Saturday of the month*
*      - 353 4522                 *
*Hardware  - G. Kraemer           *
*Meet-no set date. Call for info. *
*      - 421 0179                 *
*QL        - R. Hilsmann          *
*Meeting 3rd Wednesday of month   *
*      - 251 5291                 *
*Spectrum  - R. Hilsmann          *
*Meeting 3rd Wednesday of month   *
*      - 251 5291                 *
*                                 *
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Classic Computer Fair

On November 3. 1991 a computer show will be put on by the TI group. It is featuring all classic computers and the Sinclair computer will be represented by SMUG.

We have purchased a table and plan to be there. If you have anything you want to sell news the time. If you have a program or game to show off this is also GREAT. Who knows what new members, software or hardware you can pick up.

Now for the particulars:

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     Date - November 3, 1991
     Time - Setup 8am to 9am
          - Fair  9am to 4pm
          - Pack  4pm to 5pm
     Where- Airport Quality Inn (Howell
            Ave. across from the airport)
     Cost - 2 at the door or 1 with your
            user group membership card.
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I don't know what to expect but I will be happy to see you there. If you don't have your membership contact Mr. Cultice. If you have any questions you can contact me or Mr. Gene Hitz, TI Faire Coordinator, 4122 Glenway Street Wauwatosa, WI 53222. Phone 414-535 0133. There will be a drawing for a 24 pin Panasonic printer, a Ram Disk (I am not sure if it will work on our computer), a monochrome monitor, 1.44 floppy drive, 1200 baud modem, Hayes compatible. If you were not at the last meeting then you aren't aware of the show so make plans to attend.

According to the flyer the following computer groups:

Texas Instuments	Apple
Tandy	Adam
Timex/Sinclair	Atari
Commodore	COCO
IBM/Clones	

We discussed the Computer Faire (see previous page) to be held November 3, 1991. We decided to purchase a table for SMUG. Any SMUG member is welcome to use the table to sell their hardware/software. The only thing required is that you show up at the table to sell it. As of now we do not have volunteers to man the table.

We discussed the idea of the user group disbanding as a formal group and still meet but without any requirement or rules of order. The problem we have is there are no volunteers to run for officer positions. The idea was put on hold until the end of the year. We can decide then, I guess.

Poetic Lie Cents

I have a spelling checker,
It came with my PC,
It clearly marks four my revue,
Mistakes I cannot sea.
I've run this poem threw it,
I'm sure your please to no,
It's letter perfect in its weigh,
My checker tolled me sew.

Another idea is to open our group to other computers or we merge with some one else. This does sound appealing but I don't know if there are any groups that we can interest or would be interested in us. The Faire would be a way of finding out what is happening out there, or at least when the others meet and where. Maybe we could address them at their meeting.

New Computer Warning.

This machine is subject to breakdown during periods of critical need.
A special circuit in this machine called a "critical detector" senses the operator's emotional state in terms of how desperate he or she is to use it.
The "critical detector" then creates a malfunction proportional to the desperation of the operator.
Threatening the machine with violence only aggravates the situation, and an attempt to use another machine may cause it to malfunction as well.
Stay cool and say nice things to the machine. Nothing else seems to work.
If all else fails, call: Systech Electronics 10953 West Mitchell Street 414-475-7475.

PRESIDENTS PROGRAM

Neil and I attended the Ham/computer fest at Waukesha last Sunday (10/13) and found some good buys. There was not anything for Sinclair. this was a first. but maybe those hams still using the GREAT computer know what they have and don't want to give it up. The only other person I saw was Rudy. But the venders were not as populous as in other times.

Attended the games group and was happy to see Ed Haas there. Neil has some good games and we tried a few. Lemmings is addictive. Didn't leave until after midnight.

Upcoming computer/ham shows: Sat. Nov. 9, Serb Hall, 51st and Oklahoma. Fort Wayne Hamfest, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Exposition Center Fort Wayne IN. 11/16-17, 1991 Contact Don Gagnon 219-484-3317 before 11/6. Hamfest Sun, 3/22/92. Jefferson County Fairgrounds Hwy. 18 West, Jefferson WI 8am to 2pm. Computer/Ham Swapfest, 10/11/92, 8am to ??, Waukesha County Expo Center. $4 early $5 at the door.

QL-Keyboard-90

Review by Tim Swenson

The QL-Keyboard-90 is a IBM keyboard interface for the QL. It allows the QL to use any standard XT or AT type keyboard. It is made by Computer Technik/Jurgen Falkenburg of Germany.

A QL user in Germany, whom I correspond with, sent me the interface out of the blue. Bob Dyl of the Seacoast Group says it costs 169 DM for overseas (about $80).

The interface is installed on the inside of the QL, right where the 8049 chip goes. The 8049 will go piggy back on the interface and still be functional.

It only takes about 15 to 30 minutes to install the interface. I took about 20 minutes, going nice and slow. The most delicate part is removing the 8049 chip without a chip puller. If you go slow with a screwdriver, it will come right out.

The person that sent the interface, also included an extra chip socket, to be used to raise the interface above surrounding parts. The only problem with this, is that it raises the interface so high, I can not fully close the QL. Not a problem for me, I'll just put the QL under a stand I am making for the monitor and not use it's keyboard.

Once installed, the interface works great. You can go out and buy a keyboard with the feel that you like. CompUSA (formerly Soft Warehouse) has a AT-type keyboard for $30. Most places want anywhere from $60 to $90 for a keyboard. The mail order places will run from $30 to $60.
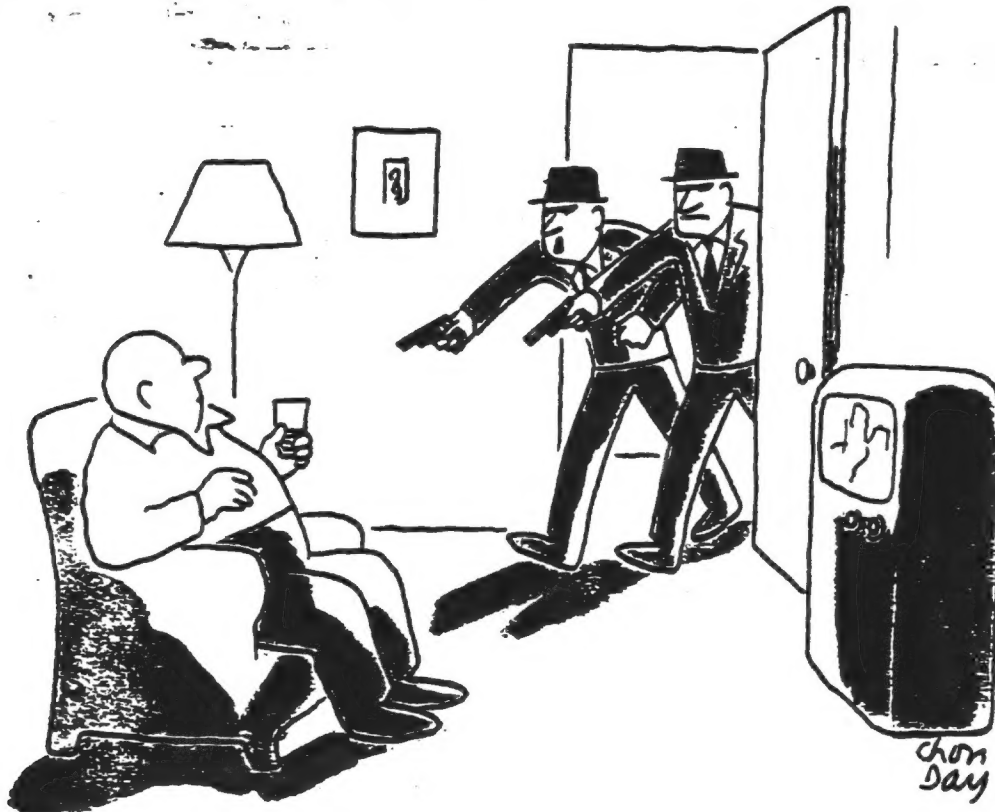
The interface is designed to make the IBM keyboard map properly to the QL keyboard. The backspace key is the same as CTRL LEFT ARROW (which still works). The arrow keys on the numberic keypad and the seperate arrow keys both work. If you are used to a IBM keyboard from work or home (like me), it lets you use the QL with the same finger movements.

One nice feature of the interface is the reset function. Hit the CTRL, ALT, and DEL at the same time (just like the IBM) and you will reset the QL (exactly the same as hitting the reset button or powering it off).

I've only used my interface for a few hours and I like it. I know that I will not suffer from any more bad QL keyboard membranes. Plus I can sit the keyboard in my lap and hack away.

Once you get the switches set for your particular keyboard, everything runs as advertised. I have an AT type keyboard. I have to put the XT/AT switch on AT and the NEW/OLD switch on OLD. The keyboard is switched to AT. If you have any problems with your new keyboard not emulating the full QL keyboard, try various positions of the switches. You're bound to get it right in just a few tries.

Over all, the interface is great. It is fairly easy to install, does not take up any ports, and is 100% compatible with the QL keyboard, plus some extras keys. If you plan to use your QL for years to come, I recommend that you buy the interface. Keyboard membranes will not be available forever.

"President's Commission on Physical Fitness, fella. Freeze!"

PEDDLING TECHNOLOGY

Steven Roberts is getting ready for a bike ride. It won't be a typical jaunt, but then nothing about Roberts is typical.

In mid-July, he will cross the state of Iowa on a bicycle that he says is worth about $1 million. And that's not counting the paper for the dot-matrix printer. Dot matrix printer? Of course. One can't expect a bicycle with four on-board computers not to produce hard copy.

Roberts, an admitted techie, freelance writer, and free spirit, has already logged 16,000 miles on a bike he has dubbed Behemoth (Big Electronic Human-Engineered Machine . . . Only Too Heavy). His upcoming trip will kick off another round of travels on his 400-pound movable techno-feast.

In addition to a Sun Microsystems Inc. Sparcstation, an Apple Computer Inc. Macintosh, and a couple of other PCs, Roberts' vehicle also comes standard with solar-power panels that re-charge 12-volt batteries; a freezer that cools beverages and, through a special tube threaded through the helmet, his head; and a modem and other communications gear that allows for a satellite link to the Internet. Other equipment includes an ultrasonic beam generated from the helmet that serves the same function as a mouse; a stereo; and a talking security system that threatens thieves, reports the bike's longitude and latitude to police, and can even deliver a 60,000-volt charge to the seat.

What gives? Roberts says he was living the American dream in the mid-'80s, with a house and steady consulting work, but he was bored. So he loaded up the bike and he moved to, well, almost everywhere.
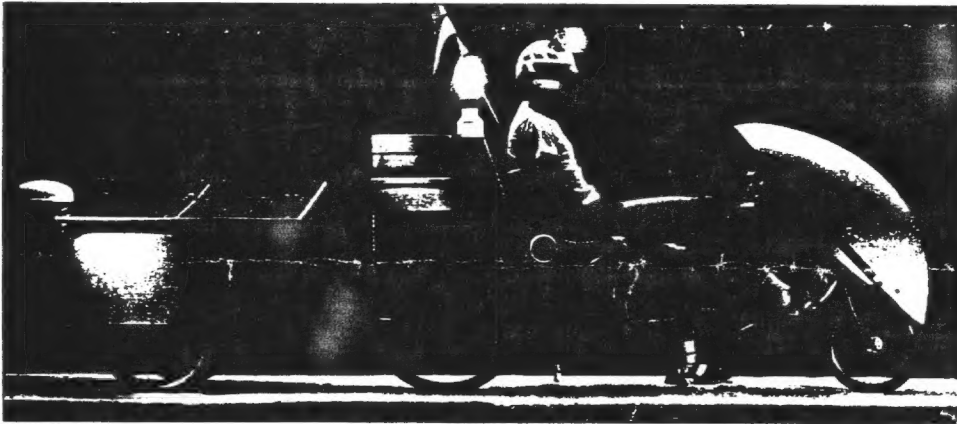
It's a life that has the potential for loneliness, but from his office-on-wheels Roberts manages to lead a full life, both professionally and socially. He has written for *USA Today* and other publications, as well as publishing his own quarterly, *Nomadness*. He has also penned a book about his adventures, and still takes on the occasional consulting gig. As for friends, his bike tends to be a real conversation piece—so much so, he says, that "I've got a list of 5,000 people in my hospitality database. I could play connect-the-dots and visit them for the next 20 years."
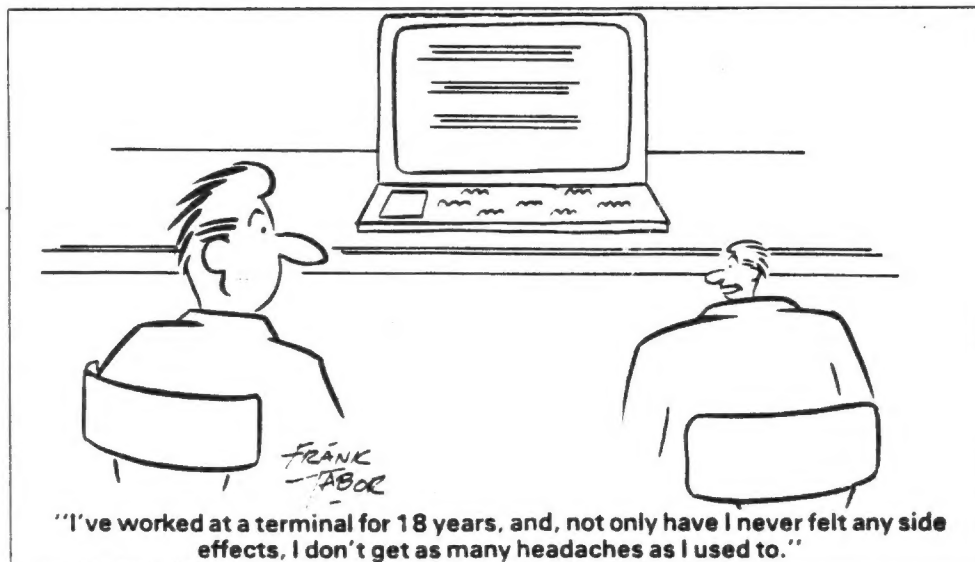
And then there's electronic-mail. "I live in the network," he says, checking his various E-mail services several times a day. "I've got many close friends I've never met. They're out there on the network. I think in many ways it's a much richer social life than many people have."

Roberts's Behemoth is sponsored by more than 150 companies. "My job," Roberts explains, "is to use new technologies in fun, exciting, original ways, to remind people of why they became engineers. I'm sort of a high-tech court-jester."

Roberts can be reached on the Internet at wordy @bikelab.sun.com. His address on MCI and Genie is simply Wordy. For those who want to do more than say hello, Roberts says he is welcoming people to ride with him on portions of his journey.   —*Scott Leibs*

Roberts has already logged 16,000 miles on the bicycle he has dubbed Behemoth

"I've worked at a terminal for 18 years, and, not only have I never felt any side effects, I don't get as many headaches as I used to."

FRANK —TABOR

The Sinclair Milwaukee Users Group
(SMUG)

We are a not-for-profit group devoted to serving the interests of those who own, use, and/or are interested in the Timex/Sinclair family of computers.

Editor and contact person is:
Bill Heberlein (414) 527 2191.

SMUG maintains a gratis exchange of newsletters with approximately 30 Users Groups across the U.S. and Canada. Clubs not sending newsletters for more than 6 months are removed from our mailing list.

Newsletter subscription is available for only $10 per year to non members or free with a club membership. A club membership is $20 per year for a family membership.

Advertising cost for 1/2 page ad runing for six months is $10. The ad copy may be changed each month but you must supply the copy.

SMUG BYTES
5052 N. 91st Street
Milwaukee WI 53225-4129
Address Correction Requested

The next meeting of SMUG will be held on:
Wednesday, November 6,1991
6:00 Set Up   6:30
7:30 Business Meeting   8:30
9:00   10:30 Clean Up
Wednesday, December 4,1991 (MERRY CHRISTMAS)
6:00 Set Up   6:30
7:30 Business Meeting   8:30
9:00   10:30 Clean Up
Location:
Equitable Savings and Loan,
145th and Capital Drive,
Milwaukee WI

NITE-TIMES NEWS
CATUG Newsletter
613 Parkside Circle
Streamwood . IL
60107